



Say NO to MOsquitoes

Eliminate Standing Water by
Tipping the Container and
Tossing the Water.

Don't let mosquitoes "BUG" you!
There are things to FIGHT THE BITE
YOU CAN DO!

The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate or treat standing water where mosquitoes lay their eggs. Once an adult mosquito has emerged from its water-breeding site it becomes a menace and could possibly spread West Nile virus.

WHAT TO DO?

If mosquitoes are a problem where you live, make sure that you are not providing breeding sites around your home. Most mosquitoes are poor fliers. If you are bitten, they are probably breeding around your home. Mosquitoes prefer to breed in all sorts of still water provided by artificial containers. Running streams and creeks with any water movement or ponds with predators such as fish, frogs, or dragonflies are not good breeding sites for mosquitoes. Mosquitoes need only a few tablespoons of water to breed.

To help stop the breeding of mosquitoes, check the following:

- **Roof gutters** - clean out leaves and debris blocking and holding water
- **Discarded cans & containers** - remove, store inside, or turn upside down
- **Old tires** - store tires where they won't collect rainwater
- **Bird baths** - clean, and change the water every 5-7 days
- **Wading pools** - change water regularly and turn over when not in use
- **Drainage ditches** - keep open and free from debris holding water
- **Canoes, boats** - cover with a tight-fitting tarp, or turn upside down
- **Tarps on woodpiles or garden equipment** - remove sagging areas
- **Ornamental ponds** - stock with small fish
- **Puddles and swampy areas** - drain or back fill
- **Treat your property with a larvicide** - keep mosquitoes from breeding

When you look around your yard and feel at a loss just remember to Tip and Toss.

Sponsored by the City of Falls Church in cooperation with the Fairfax County Department of Health



For more information visit the City's Web site at www.ci.falls-church.va.us or give the Fairfax County Department of Health a BUZZ at 703-246-2300 / TTY 711

Fight the Bite

Check List for Mosquitoes' Breeding Sites

Potential Breeding Site	How to Correct	YES	NO
Any container capable of holding water	Throw away, turn over, empty once a week or drill holes in the bottom.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bird baths	Dump out once a week or flush out with garden hose.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pet water bowls	Rinse out once a week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potted plants with saucers	Empty saucers or flush out with garden hose once a week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, styrofoam cups, bottle caps foil, other trash that can hold water	Store inside or turn over. If trash, throw away.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tarps or other plastic covers, flexible sandbox covers	Drain water trapped in folds and arrange so that water runs off.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clogged rain gutters	Clean so water runs freely. Use a mosquito larvicide.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garbage cans, recycle bins, other barrels; Upturned garbage can lids	Keep can covered or drill holes in bottom. Keep lid on can or turned so water runs off. If collecting rain water, cover with screen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Old tires	If used for playground equipment, drill holes for water to run. If on ground, be sure holes are not blocked by mulch. Call 703-534-6509 for disposal information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Old playground equipment	Remove and dispose of. If it must be stored, put under cover. Be sure water drains off.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's toys, especially plastic toys, "Kiddie Coops," etc.	Store inside or turn so that places that can hold water are turned down. Some toys have compartments that hold water on both sides.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wading pools, unused or abandoned swimming pools	Turn over kiddie pools when not in use. Larvicide unused swimming pools with "mosquito dunks" once a month. (Mosquitoes can't breed in maintained swimming pools because of the chemicals used.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wheelbarrow stored outside	Turn over when not in use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flat roofs	Inspect for water pools.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dripping outdoor faucets and window air conditioners	If puddling, repair faucet. Place rocks under window air conditioner to ensure water runs off or fill hole with dirt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ornamental ponds without fish	Stock with fish, apply larvicide or filter/aerate water. (Fish eat mosquito larvae.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boats, canoes	Pump out bilges. Turn over canoes and small boats. If not possible to turn over, dump out after each rain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under decks, porches or outbuildings: stored items, depressions in dirt or plastic ground linings	Fill in depressions. Remove or turn over any stored items that hold water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pipes, plumbing supplies with elbows (corner joints)	Store under cover. If they must be outside, arrange so openings point down, not up.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drainage ditch, culvert or other low areas clogged by grass and weed clippings	Remove grass and weed clippings so water can flow and/or drain freely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexible plastic pipe to take water away from downspout	Replace with smooth pipe. The grooves can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Base of patio umbrella or portable basketball stand	Fill with sand or, if filled with water, be sure to screw on plug. Keep water out of depressions on stand also.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor grills	Keep covered. Be sure vent is closed also.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bromeliads (plants that hold water) holes in trees or cavities formed by multiple tree trunks	Turn plant over to dump water. For trees or plants too large to turn over, flush out cavities with garden hose once a week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bamboo	Cut down and regularly mow remaining "stumps" so they can't hold water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hollow fence posts without caps	Put caps on open chain link or plastic fence posts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plastic in gardens to prevent weeds	Use landscape cloth that will allow water through instead of plastic sheets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>